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NORMAN KEN OUCHI				
P.O. BOX 20111				
SAN JOSE, CA 95160				
EXAMINER				
ALAM, UZMA				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/974,594

Applicant(s)

OUCHI, NORMAN KEN

Examiner

UZMA ALAM

Art Unit

2157

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Final Drawing Review (PTO-640)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the arguments filed December 17, 2007. Claims 1-20 are cancelled. Claims 21-40 are pending. Claims 21-40 represent means for tailoring workflow steps.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 21-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ghoneimy US Patent Publication No. 2004/0078373.

Ghoneimy teaches the invention as claimed including a workflow distributing apparatus and method (see abstract).

As per claims 21, 28 and 36, Ghoneimy teaches A method for the controlled processing of classified file types wherein a first file of a first classified file type is processed into a second file of a second classified file type by a plurality of users with access to a route directed workflow system in a computer network comprising the steps of:

defining a set of classified file types including a first classified file type and a second classified file type (classification of file; pp 0055-0065);

dividing the process into a first classified file type attachment step, a first classified file type download step, a step that processes a first classified file type into a second classified file type, a second classified file type attachment step, and a second classified file type download step (processes and attachments; 0079-0082);

defining route steps that specify attachment or download of a file of a specified classified file type (pp 0085);

producing a route with a route step that specifies attachment of a first file with the first classified file type by a first user, followed by a route step that specifies the download of the first file with the first classified file type by a second user, followed by a route step that specifies the attachment of a second file with a second classified file type by the second user, followed by a route step that specifies the download of the second file with the second classified file type by a third user (pp 0085-0089);

defining a first file of the first classified file type (pp 0065);

executing the route in a workflow system directed by the route where the workflow system in response to a route step presents to the user a screen to attach or download a file of the classified file type as specified by the route step; such that the first user attaches the first file of the first classified file type (pp 0091-0102);

the second user downloads the first file, processes the first file into a second file of the second classified file type, and attaches the second file (pp 0105-0111); and

the third user downloads the second file of the second classified file type (pp 0113, Figure 11).

As per claims 22 and 29, Ghoneimy teaches the method and system of claims 21 and 28, wherein a third file has a parent-child relationship with a fourth file and the file attachment attaches the third and fourth files with a parent-child relationship (pp 0065-0071).

As per claims 23, 31 and 40, Ghoneimy teaches the method, system and screen of claims 21, 28 and 36, wherein a third file can have the same file name as a fourth file and the files are distinguishable (pp 0055-0071).

As per claims 24 and 32, Ghoneimy teaches the method and system of claims 21, 28 wherein the route has a loop and the files in each iteration of the loop are distinguishable. (column 12, lines 50-67; column 13, lines 1-10).

As per claims 25, 33, 34 and 39, Ghoneimy teaches the method, system and screen of claims 21, 28 and 36, wherein the route provides a conditional branch capability at a route step and the user at the route step indicates the branch choice for the next route step, (pp 0091-0111).

As per claims 26 and 35, Ghoneimy teaches the method and system of claims 21 and 28, wherein the screen at a route step provides a means to download a file based on the file classification (pp 0065-0079).

As per claims 27, 30, 37 and 38, Ghoneimy teaches the method, system and screen of claims 21, 28 and 36, wherein a seventh file is related to an eighth file in a parent-child

relationship and the file download 6an downloads the seventh and eighth files in a parent-child relationship (pp 0065-0071).

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to UZMA ALAM whose telephone number is (571)272-3995. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays and Tuesdays 5:30 - 2.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Uzma Alam

Ua

March 16, 2008

/Ario Etienne/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2157